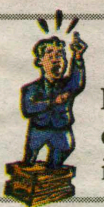
Row Row Row Your Boat

Page 16 has a recap of last weekend's intrepid 90-miler canoe race.



Up on the Soapbox

Hady Hewidy '17 weighs in on the current Israel/Palestine crisis and how it's covered on the Hill, see **page 5.**

From Russia with Love

Read about Isabella Schoning's '16 experiences in St. Petersburg on **page 8.**

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HAMILTON COLLEGE

The Spectator

Thursday, Sept. 11, 2014

Volume LV Number 2

College recommends changes to Harassment and Sexual Misconduct Policy

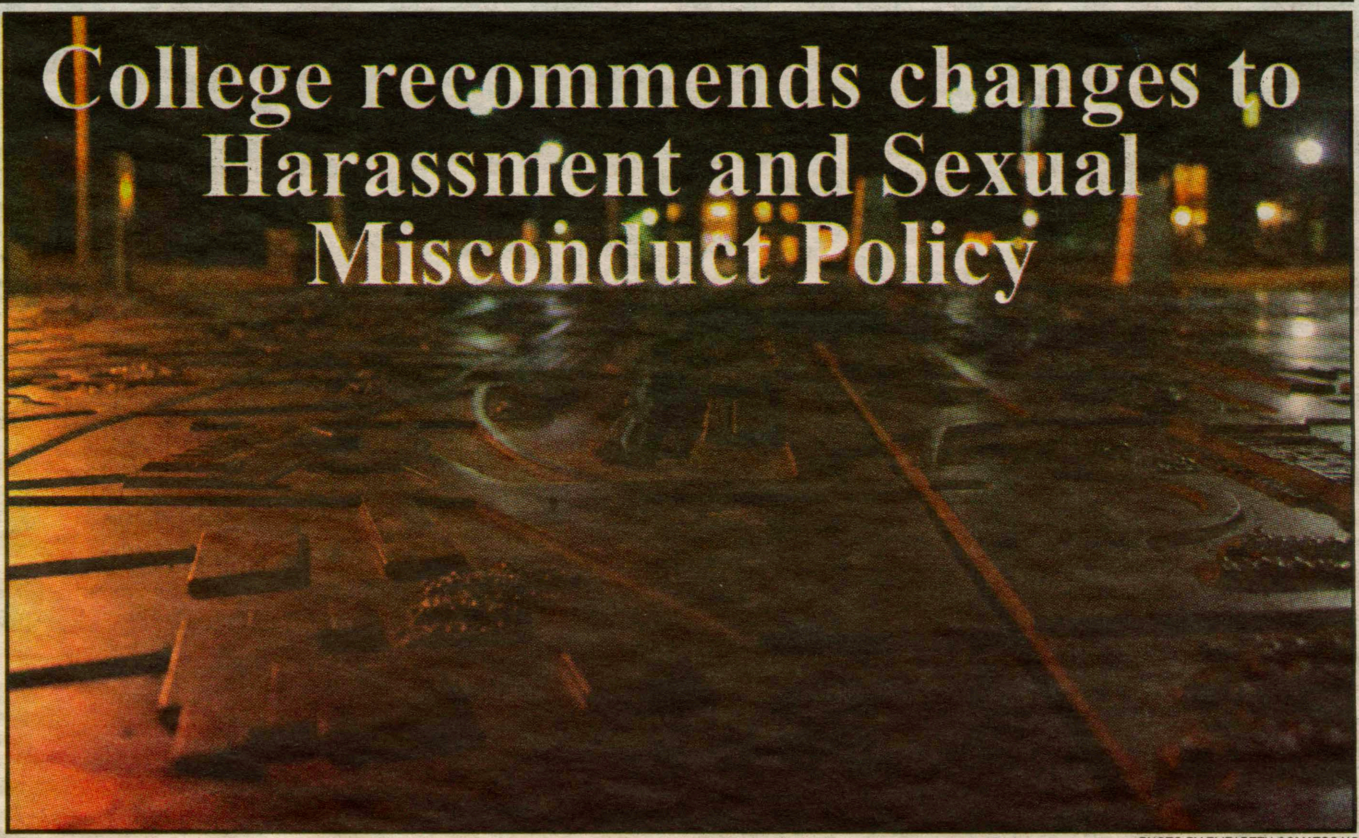

PHOTO BY ELIZABETH COMATOS '15

by Brian Sobotko '16
News Editor

Last week, the Title IX Task Force, formed by President Joan Hinde Stewart in May, released its recommended changes to Hamilton's Harassment and Sexual Misconduct Policy. Senior Associate Dean of Students for Strategic Initiatives and Title IX Coordinator Meredith Harper Bonham announced the draft recommendations via an all-campus email.

The Task Force recommends splitting the current Harassment and Sexual Misconduct Policy into two distinct policies and creating "a more robust investigative process" centered around an investigative team composed of an external investigator and a trained member of the Harassment and Sexual Misconduct Board (HSMB). The group also proposes reconstituting the HSMB Hearing Committee as a Harassment and Sexual Misconduct Review Panel (HSMRP). This change would eliminate the current formal hearing process, ensuring that students will not be forced to tell their stories both during the investigation and the hearing. The HSMRP, composed of three members of the HSMB, would review the Investigation Team's report and recommend a decision and sanction to the relevant senior staff member. For cases involving students, that senior staff member would be Dean of Students Nancy Thompson.

Members of the community had the opportunity to discuss the proposed changes at a forum last Friday, Sept. 5. The forum was sparsely attended by about 10 students but included many

see ***School looks,*** *page 3*

Off the Hill Challenge connects students with locals

by Kirsty Warren '18
News Contributor

On Saturday, September 6, Hamilton students braved wind and scattered showers to embark on the Off the Hill Challenge. Participants went from storefront to storefront, collecting complimentary flowers from the Clinton Florist, sharp cheddar cheese from Tom's Natural Foods and perfectly proportioned half-moon cookies at Village Crossing. For many first-years, the event was not only their first chance to explore downtown Clinton; it was their first time off the Hill at all since arriving on campus.

"Everyone we crossed paths with was super nice, friendly and glad to have us in their businesses and restaurants," Laura Whitmer '18 said. "It was so nice to be welcomed in that way after not being here for very long and not knowing anyone in town."

Whitmer said her favorite part of the Off the Hill Challenge was being able to spend time off campus and experience the town with friends. Alan Yeh '18 enjoyed seeing small, local businesses and the lack of chain franchises.

Ellie Pinto '18 said the close ties between Clinton and Hamilton were obvious.

"The vendors seemed really happy to see us. It almost felt like an extension of the Hamilton community," she said. "It was really interesting to talk to the people we met, a lot of them were sharing personal stories and it was great to interact with them."

"We work really hard to maintain a relationship with the college. We want the students to come down and experience Clinton," said Julie Bigger of Artisan's Corner. "We know people at Hamilton come from all over and this is a place where you can buy a piece of work that represents upstate New York."

The 2014 Off the Hill Challenge included several businesses new to Clinton. Tex-Mex restaurant 8-Fresh opened on August 11, while ice cream shop All Seasons and boutique Signature 81 opened in the past few months.

Others, like Clinton Jewelers, have established deep connections to Clinton and to Hamilton.

"We're a village store. The original owner graduated from Hamilton in the late seventies," owner and designer Rebecca Brown said. Cash-strapped college students might not buy a lot of fine jewelry, but Brown said she sees an influx of business from the College particularly around graduation.

"We'll get a bunch of friends who will get a set of bracelets when they graduate so they can all have one," she said.

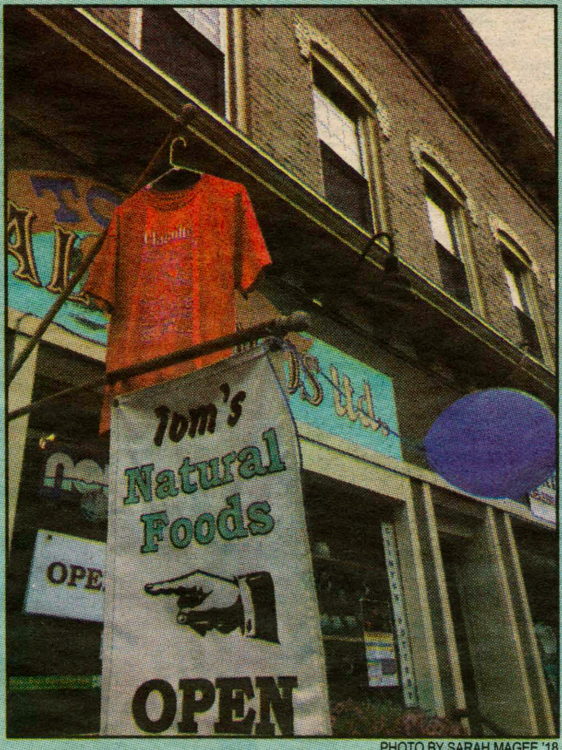

PHOTO BY SARAH MAGEE '18

Students ventured into Clinton on Sat. for the Off the Hill Challenge.

Kari Kiehn of BeeUtiful Skin Care & Waxing, meanwhile, says her business sees students from the College every week. According to Kiehn, the salon benefits from being located near three sororitiy houses Tom's Natural Foods is a staple for some Hamilton students because the Woollcott Co-op shops there.

All the business owners and employees said they had a good relationship with either Hamilton students or their visiting parents. However, a few voiced concerns that if students cannot live off campus next year, they will shop in Clinton less frequently.

Eclectic shops like Paddywacks and Dawn Marie's Treasures are go-tos for students looking for unique items.

"I do see a lot of students who enjoy buying fun gifts for each other," Joanne Roselli of Paddywacks said. "We sell whimsy."

Cathy Mosher of the thrift store Wink said the store is especially popular when students are shopping for themed parties.

"They come in here for 60s parties, 70s parties, now they're even having 90s parties," Mosher said. "We have a nice mix of local artists, unique collectibles and just a lot of cool stuff. There are a couple of girls from Hamilton who come in exclusively for vintage clothing. Last year there was a girl who came in to find furs."

Students go to Wink for their caffeine fix as well as their fashion fix, as the store also has an in-house coffee shop.

"It's like living in Star's Hollow," Mosher said, referencing the idyllic town in the TV show *Gilmore Girls.*

After completing the course, participants picked up free Off the Hill Challenge t-shirts and were encouraged to continue exploring Clinton. Students lined up at the Cider Mill for doughnuts, cider and samples of pie and cookies.

"The chilly weather made it even better to go to the Cider Mill at the end," Whitmer said.

"I loved the traditional feel [of the Cider Mill]," Pinto said. "The fact that it's seasonal made it that much more special. It really had that feeling of fall and family."

Dovidio lectures on psychology of prejudice

By Mackenzie Doherty '18
News Contributor

On Tuesday, September 9, faculty and students alike piled into the Bradford Auditorium of the Kirner-Johnson building to listen to John F. Dovidio speak. Dovidio, the Carl Iver Hovland Professor of Psychology at Yale University, does research centered around issues of social power and social relations. His lecture, entitled "The Subtlety of Contemporary Racism: Implications for Intergroup Perceptions, Interaction, and Policy," was the John Rybash Memorial Psychology Lecture for this year.

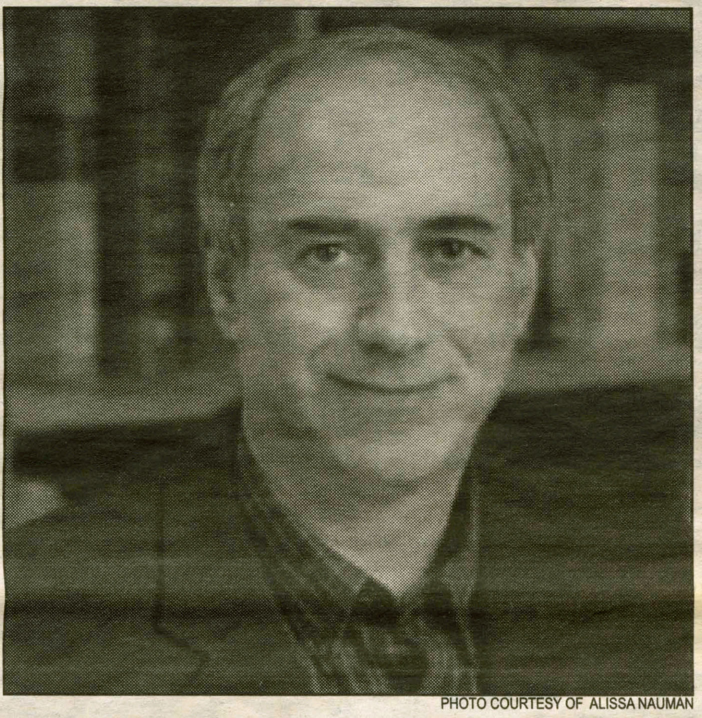

PHOTO COURTESY OF ALISSA NAUMAN

Professor Dovidio spoke about implicit prejudice in the 2014 John Rybash Memorial Psychology lecture

Dovidio opened by sharing that all human beings have both explicit and implicit attitudes. Explicit attitudes are those that we deliberately think about and report on (your response when a friend asks about your favorite class), while implicit attitudes are evaluations that occur outside of our conscious awareness and control (nervous tics and body language). "Our explicit and implicit biases permeate our everyday life," he explained.

Throughout the lecture, Dovidio focused on the social psychology of prejudice and racism, in which explicit and implicit attitudes play a very significant role. Racism, he said, does not exist in the same form that it used to: it is subtle, less acceptable and often less intentional. Most white Americans believe that they are free of prejudice and hate, but, more often than not, they have subdued and indistinct biases somewhere within them, and these biases can be detected through careful measurement of implicit attitude.

Dovidio focused exclusively on the relationship between black people and white people in order to demonstrate the existence of modern prejudice. In his social experiments, he placed one white person and one black person into a room and gave them only one instruction: to converse with one another. He then watched the white conversationalist closely, recording and adding up any implicit signs of negativity displayed toward the black person throughout the duration of the conversation.

After the conversation ended, Dovidio inquired as to whether or not the white person thought that the conversation went well. The overwhelming majority of white people answered with a resounding yes. Alternately, when the black people were asked about the nature of the white person's character, they were very likely to report that the human they had been talking with was distant, apprehensive or just generally unpleasant.

This would not make sense if it were not for implicit attitude. The conversation between the two may have been explicitly pure (free from argument or tension), but the implicit attitude of the white person could be detected via lack of eye contact, sweatiness, nervous movement or body position.

In Dovidio's experiments, the black participant often gave more notice to those factors than the actual words exchanged. While 85 percent of the white participants explicitly reported that they did not believe themselves to be racist, the experiment results indicated that roughly 75 percent were actually showing clear signs of low-key racist activity.

In a congruent study between white doctors and black patients, Dovidio and his team had similar findings. Race discordant visits to the doctor are shorter, involve less positive affect and are less participatory than white doctor/white patient visits.

Fifty-seven percent of black people surveyed during that study said that discrimination occurs often or very often in interactions with white physicians. White physicians were often unaware of this, for the patients felt this way due to the physicians' implicit attitudes. Though racism may not be expressed on the surface of modern society, Dovidio concluded, it is "just as insidious as old-fashioned racism."

Is there anything that can be done to counter this sort of negative interaction due to ethnical difference? Dovidio says yes… sort of. To simply make people aware of the subtleties of modern racism is not enough, though.

When aware, white participants would often try too hard to conceal their implicit attitude, unwillingly displaying even more negative body language whilst doing so. The key, he explained, is to find a uniting factor in order for separate races to come together. For example, a team, club or other organization inclusive of all races is less likely to harbor the faint traces of underlying racist tendencies. "You have to create a new reality," said the professor, "and people will adapt to that reality."

AMHERST BATES BOWDOIN COLBY CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

NESCAC NEWS

by Kirsty Warren '18
News Contributor

Tufts Art Gallery honors mascot

The Tufts University Art Gallery will host an exhibition this fall in honor of Jumbo, the school's mascot. "Jumbo: Marvel, Myth, and Mascot" is timed to accompany the installation of a life-sized bronze sculpture of the elephant, according to a Boston Globe article.

Jumbo the elephant grew up in the London Zoo but was killed by a runaway train in Canada when he was transported to North America. He became Tufts' mascot when his stuffed body was donated to the University by P.T. Barnum.

The exhibition, organized by Andrew McClellan, will include a jar of Jumbo's ashes, photographs, circus posters and even a few objects found in Jumbo's stomach when he died, including a screw and a human tooth.

Trinity students volunteer in Hartford community

More than 700 volunteers from Trinity College participated in the 16th annual "Do It Day" on Sept. 6. Projects included gardening, packing, construction, reading to children and other services. In total, more than 50 Do It Day sites across the city of Hartford were served. Sarah Wolcott '15 and Liznel Aybar-Ventura '15 spent the summer planning the event, according to an article on the Trinity website.

"The first year, we had about 150 volunteers, which was impressive for just getting started. For the past four years or so, we have seen it up to about 700," said faculty supervisor Joe Barber. "The event wouldn't happen if not for all the sports teams, Greek organizations, and other groups that provide a lot of volunteers, plus individuals who sign up for Do It Day, and all the behind-the-scenes volunteers, orchestrating and providing support back on campus."

Wesleyan hosts second annual "Hackathon"

Wesleyan University held WesHack, a week-end long tech conference, from Sept. 5 to 6. WesHack was made up of two events, a crash course "bootcamp," and a 48-hour hackathon for programmers.

According to an article on the Wesleyan website, 28 students took part in the hackathon. The participants were divided into four groups, each of which created a Wesleyan-themed app. The results were FoodyCall, an app for ordering food late at night, a party-finding app called Bounce, an app for academic planning called WesPlan and Study Buddy, an app that helps the user find people to study with based on major.

More than 80 students participated in the bootcamp, a series of lectures on web design, computer programming and more.

"It's a fabulous compliment to what students learn in a classroom," organizer Makaela Kingsley said. "It's practical experience that supplements the research and theory they do in school. It opens this idea of tech for everybody in a way that I don't think Wesleyan's culture has been able to do. Computer science classes are pretty intimidating, so we are lowering the barriers to entry to engage a much broader community of students."

MIDDLEBURY TRINITY TUFTS WESLEYAN WILLIAMS

School looks to educate students on harassment policies

from College recommends, page 1

senior-level campus representatives, including Stewart, Thompson, Dean of Faculty Patrick Reynolds and Dean of Admission and Financial Aid Monica Inzer. In all, between 40-50 people attended including many faculty members.

In April 2011, the US Department of Education Office for Civil Rights (OCR) published a "Dear Colleague" letter explaining a school's responsibility to respond effectively to sexual violence against students. Last April, over three years later, OCR published a list of questions and answers to provide institutions more guidance. Additionally, the 2013 Campus SaVE Act (Sexual Violence Elimination Act) and the April 2014 "Not Alone" White House Report provided further guidelines. These federal actions also exist in the context of a national conversation and awareness of sexual assault on college campuses. Last May, OCR released a list of higher education institutions under investigation for Title IX violations. These schools included fellow NESCAC schools Amherst and Tufts. Then, this July, *The New York Times* published a scathing front-page article regarding fellow New York Six Liberal Arts Consortium school Hobart and William Smith's handling of a sexual assault complaint.

"I wanted to assure compliance and that our policies are effective," Stewart explained at the forum.

The new policies represent a combination of changes the Task Force devised and those changes that are reactions to the clarifications in federal law. The group, chaired by Harper Bonham, also included Thompson, Associate Professor of Women's Studies and 2014-15 HSMB Chair Vivyan Adair, Associate Dean of Students for Academics and Professor of Government Steve Orvis, Assistant Director of Counseling David Walden and Lea Haber Kuck '87 an attorney and trustee. The group looked to successful policies at peer institutions and they were particularly impressed with the process at Middlebury.

Harper Bonham explained that Middlebury's policy is "reflected to some extent in our revisions" and called it a "really solid model." The most significant change to the policy, the changes to the investigative process and elimination of the hearing, came from conversations with counterparts at Middlebury. Harper Bonham spoke confidently about these changes, which bolster the investigative process, admitting that the current process, and especially the hearing component, can be traumatizing for students. She again credited Middlebury, calling them "trailblazers" for devising a process that emphasizes fairness and compassion.

> **"I wanted to assure compliance and that our policies are effective."**
> *—Joan Hinde Stewart*

Representatives from SAVES (Sexual Assault and Violence Education and Support) commend the new process.

"Removing the hearing process is a huge step in the right direction," Chloe Shanklin '16 (SAVES Chair), Sally Bourdon '15 and Cori Smith '17 (Vice Chair) told *The Spectator* via email. "Now both parties have a safer space enabling them to better communicate their testimony, as well as the opportunity to review the entire statement, without any new surprises at the hearing."

School officials are not thrilled with all the changes. The school will revise the composition of the HSMB so that only full-time employees and faculty with associate professor rank or above may serve. In accordance with federal guidelines, students will no longer serve on the HSMB. This change is something Harper Bonham said she had "mixed feelings" about.

"I have had fantastic experiences working with student HSMB members," Harper Bonham explained, adding that many "have served with great discretion and intelligence."

Harper Bonham expressed more concern over a change in federal law that will allow students to have an attorney as an advisor. The reservations with the policy stem not only from concerns over equity but also that these hearings are designed to be not legal proceedings. The HSMB, in accordance with federal guidelines outlined in the Dear Colleague letter, uses a "preponderance of the evidence standard," also referred to as a "more likely than not standard." This standard sets the burden of proof significantly lower than a "beyond a reasonable doubt" standard used in criminal proceedings.

"At Hamilton, being a member of this community is not a right, it is a privilege," Harper Bonham explained.

"The administration should provide resources for legal advocacy groups that could help with potential wealth disparity between the two involved parties," representatives from SAVES said, highlighting a dilemma school officials have with the federal guidelines.

In addition to these changes to the policy, school officials emphasize education and prevention policies. The group referenced an annual survey, administered to students that provides data. Walden called it "a really robust survey for the last six years that we can be proud of." This anonymous survey receives responses from between 40-50 percent of students on average each year. The survey asks about six different categories of sexual harassment: visual/verbal harassment, exposure of sexual nature, stalking, physical violence when sexual advances are refused, touching/grabbing of the body and non-consensual penetration (the legal definition of rape).

Overall, 25-30 percent of students experience some form of sexual harassment every year. The vast majority of those incidents are visual/verbal harassment, exposure and touching/grabbing. Around three percent of students are raped each year. As Walden explained, that amounts to roughly 60 students over the 32 weeks students are on campus.

In addition to information sessions during orientation where school officials share this information, all first-years are required to attend Speak About It, a performance-based presentation composed of skits and dialogue designed to educate about consent.

Representatives from SAVES would like to see more education programs exist consistently throughout one's time at Hamilton.

"The most education in terms of sexual assault prevention is given to the first-year students. While it important that students are aware as soon as they arrive, the administration should be making more of an effort to educate upperclassmen as well," the advocates explained.

"We work really diligently to educate the first-year class before they step on campus about consent and resources," Harper Bonham said. "There is more we can do to remind upper-class students. We will be looking at that population on how to create a culture on our campus that doesn't allow those types of acts to occur."

Campus Safety Incident Report

In an effort to increase Campus Safety's transparency and draw attention to students' dangerous and destructive behaviors, *The Spectator* will publish a selection of the previous weekend's incidents each Thursday. The entire report is available in the online edition of *The Spectator.* Both Campus Safety and *The Spectator* will use their discretion regarding what is published.

Thursday, September 4, 2014

12:06 a.m. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall

12:46 a.m. Mechanical Issue – Wertimer House

1:33 a.m. Noise Complaint – Babbitt Hall (exterior)

1:41 a.m. Area Check – Kennedy TSA

4:57 p.m. Smoke Detector Activation – Griffin Road Apts.

5:25 p.m. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall

5:56 p.m. Trouble Alarm Activation – Dunham Hall

Friday, September 5, 2014

3:14 p.m. Trouble Alarm – McIntosh Hall

7:21 p.m. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall

10:35 p.m. Noise Complaint – Babbitt Hall

11:10 p.m. Noise Complaint – Root Farmhouse Apartments

Saturday, September 6, 2014

12:36 a.m. Noise Complaint – Babbitt Hall

2:45 a.m. Fire Alarm – Rogers Estate

6:06 a.m. Trouble Alarm Activation – Root Residence Hall

3:23 p.m. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall

5:43 p.m. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall

5:56 p.m. Trouble Alarm Activation – Woollcott House

6:54 p.m. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall

9:51 p.m. Noise Complaint – Griffin Road Apts.

10:35 p.m. Medical Emergency – Griffin Road Apts.

10:55 p.m. Medical Emergency – Griffin Road Apts.

11:12 p.m. Noise Complaint – Carnegie Hall

11:53 p.m. Noise Complaint – Milbank Quad

Student disengagement with policy recommendations prevents real progress

Recently, officials at Hamilton College announced several changes to the way in which the College handles incidents involving sexual assault. As detailed in *The Spectator*'s cover story, the changes were sparked by both new federal regulations as well as by an institutional desire to craft a more effective and just sexual assault policy.

Aside from the legally mandated adjustments, the College's modifications represent a proactive effort to ensure that allegations of sexual assault are taken seriously at Hamilton College. At a time when many of our peer institutions are being investigated for their failure to deal appropriately with such horrific incidents, we can take pride in the fact that our school is striving to better its already reputable procedures in dealing with the issue.

Hamilton has been on the front lines against sexual assault. It has been diligent in not only collecting the most recent data surrounding sexual assault, but it has also analyzed that data and made policy changes accordingly. Aside from bureaucratic steps taken to deal with issues surrounding sexual assault, there are many faculty and staff members who are passionate about this issue, and we should be appreciative of their individual and collective efforts.

We at *The Spectator* commend the Title IX Task Force for working to eliminate redundancies that placed undue burden on victims of sexual assault, as well as for going above and beyond simply meeting the required legal standard by finding and implementing proven policy measures. We also urge school officials to continue both to explore ways in which we can strengthen the policy even further in addition to educating students on this important matter. While dealing with the subject is critical, preventing these events from happening in the first place should be just as important.

One thing that can be further improved, however, is student involvement when it comes to creating a campus culture that does not tolerate sexual assault. While there is already a dedicated contingent of students who have worked very hard with the school to build a strong sexual assault policy, not enough students are involved. This is an especially important aspect to consider given that students will no longer be able to sit on the Harassment and Sexual Misconduct Board. As reported, just about 10 students attended Friday's community forum detailing the changes to the sexual harassment policy. As a student body, we need to be actively engaged with the school on this topic, reporting incidences as we see fit as well as working with the administration to make sexual assault policy even sounder.

Sexual assault is a disgusting and often times violent act. We must stand up to it, and continue to say, "Not at My Hamilton!"

***The Spectator* editorial represents the opinions of the majority of the editorial board. It is not necessarily unanimously agreed upon.**

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Letters to the Editor Policy

The Spectator's Letter to the Editor section is designed to be a forum for the entire Hamilton community to discuss and debate campus, local, national and global issues. Pieces published in the section express the opinion of the individual writers and are not necessarily the opinions of *The Spectator*, its editors or the Media Board.

Letters to the Editor are welcome from all students, alumni/ae, faculty, friends of the college and Hamilton community members.

The Spectator has the following policies for submission:

1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. The editors reserve the right to cut off letters at 500 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. The Spectator reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
5. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

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THE SOAPBOX:

Gazan children are not collateral damage

The Soapbox is The Spectator's *platform for discourse on topics concerning news or events off the Hill. Have an opinion to share? Send your submissions to: spec@hamilton.edu.*

by Hady Hewidy '17
Opinion Contributor

When the Gaza-Israel conflict first broke out this summer, it seemed similar to many of the previous conflicts that have happened in the region. The death of three teenage Israelis sparked this latest itineration. Hamas launched Stone Age rockets, and Israel reacted with a full scale military operation. However, this time the war was horrifyingly different. Seven weeks of dehumanizing stupidity from both sides have yielded more than 1,473 civilian losses in Gaza, including 501 children, according to the UN.

There was an extreme sense of despair in the border town of Rafah. Relief trucks lined up waiting for approval to enter the Gaza Strip, with border security carefully inspecting every truck before allowing it into the warzone. Tireless volunteers stood in the desert sun, fuelled by the hope that their effort might save innocent lives. Unfortunately, most of these efforts were in vain. Even if the supplies were allowed to enter, the lack of electricity and limited medical facilities would guarantee their uselessness. Gaza is not simply a warzone; it is a large open air prison and a poorly equipped one at that.

Since my arrival to campus, I have regularly read the pink-sheet publication, *Enquiry*. It has always provided me with an alternative, thought-provoking perspective that is often not publicly discussed on campus. Nevertheless, in the first issue of the year, *Enquiry* editors provided a brief review of the summer events, including the war in Gaza. But to me, the editorial line they took with regard to Gaza was shocking for three reasons.

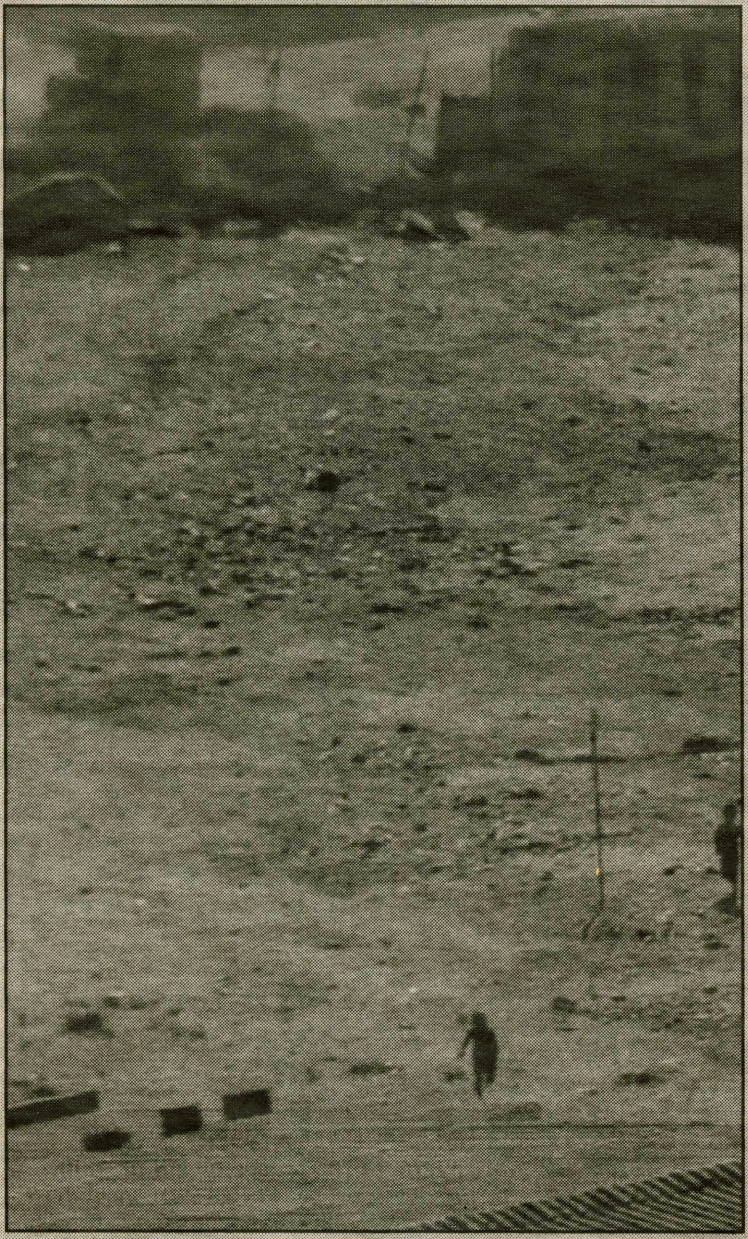
First, the article was seriously misinformed. Failing to provide honest, clear and precise information on such a sensitive topic is unacceptable. Second, the article was charged with McCarthyism. It stated: "Pro-Palestinian protestors in both the United States and Europe have been recorded using anti-Jewish slurs," essentially accusing those who opposed Israel's reaction of being anti-Semitic. The third and most important reason that their view on Gaza personally shocked me is the obvious lack of sympathy in the article. The authors' stress on the right to self-defense seemed indifferent to the civilian death toll.

It is difficult for any writer to envision the horror that the Gazans experienced last summer and have been experiencing for almost a decade. It is difficult to imagine the fear that the sound of a jet fighter could produce, carrying the possibility that the next bomb it drops is going to hit your house. It is difficult to imagine what it is like to live every day trapped between the lash of Hamas and the gun of Israel. However, that difficulty is not an excuse for lack of sympathy, a natural trait that should exist regardless of any political or ideological inclination. If we accept the death of 501 children as collateral damage, there must be something seriously wrong with our moral compass.

July 5, 2013 was the most frightening and life-threatening night of my life. Hundreds of armed protestors of the Muslim Brotherhood (the parent organization of Hamas) marched through my neighborhood in Egypt on their way to Tahrir Square, in downtown Cairo. Minor clashes started breaking out among the residents, later escalating into a full-scale street fight that lasted for hours. I was trapped in the altercation's "no man's land" for several hours, on a day that ended with 12 deaths just from my small neighborhood. Less than two months later, my family and I were protesting against the military cruelty during the crackdown on the Muslim Brotherhood, the same organization that threatened my neighborhood, my family and my life. My protest was not due to any unique or superior moral quality but rather due to the very basic trait of sympathy that is shared by most humans. Distinguishing between ideologies you detest and the unexcused death of hundreds of innocent civilians should not be even the slightest bit difficult.

It is very simple. No loss of innocent life should ever be justifiable, whether this life belongs to an Israeli, Palestinian, Muslim or Jew. Self-defense is different from mass revenge. If my article were to have a goal, it would be to salute the civilians of Gaza, the dead and the barely living, and to salute the children of Gaza, who have hidden in their schools for shelter, but have not found true safety there. As disgraceful as this might sound, we still live in an age where it is permissible to dehumanize a group of people. The civilians of Gaza are not an acceptable collateral damage. No human is!

Hewidy is a World Politics and Economics double major. He grew up in Cairo and Kuwait City and has first-hand experience with Egypt's recent political turmoil and the Arab Spring. He is a keen outdoorsman and rowing enthusiast, and is a member of Debate Society, International Students Association and HOC.



ABC.COM

This photograph of a Gazan beach was taken just seconds before the area was bombed.

Thumbs Up	Thumbs Down	Who Cares?
Super Smash Bros Club: Unwind after a long day with video games and a glass of Falcon Punch.	Rock Swing is broken: be warned, prospective art and physics double majors.	Pledging begins on Wednesday: Greek leaders fear paddling from Nancy Thompson.
Stop Traffik interest meeting: if you are anti-human trafficking and also anti-spell check.	Student Assembly gets funding for educational bookmarks: because we will do literally anything to seem smarter than Williams.	Mango brie panini day: in which a campus aggressively divided on race issues will unite for the sake of an unconventional sandwich.
Mid Autumn Moon Gazing Party: but you will be expelled for subjecting the moon to gazing rituals.	Blood drive: just a test to see if you really bleed blue. **SPORTS.**	Seniors living in Ferg: Haven't read the paper and are confused as to why everyone is so worried about them.

by Shea Crockett '15 and Wynn Van Dusen '15

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this column are purely of a satirical nature, and are not representative of the views of *The Spectator* editorial board.

Harassment and Sexual Misconduct policy changes will lead to fewer legal problems

by Kevin Welsh '15
Opinion Writer

In my experience, the best policy in the face of uncertainty and complexity is to listening to people who are smarter than you. This strategy is precisely what Hamilton's administration is doing in regards to the sexual misconduct policy changes on the Hill. College campuses nationwide face epidemic levels of under-reporting and mishandling of sexual assault and harassment. Statistics back this up, and devastating victim accounts at peer schools truly highlight a deep misunderstanding and carelessness for this issue.

Compared to most colleges, Hamilton excels in education, prevention, transparency and victim support. Recent figures paint a grim picture, but in proper context, they reflect a healthy and vigorous judiciary system. What is happening with the new changes is simply an upgrade. The two biggest changes to our current system, which will only further aide victims are: 1) the inclusion of an independent investigator in the process and 2) the restructuring of the Hamilton College Harassment and Sexual Misconduct Board to become two separate boards, neither of which will henceforth have student members.

The first change was always obvious to me; in fact, I often wondered how it was even legal to not include it. In a country where the right to a fair and speedy trial is put in the Bill of Rights, it feels vaguely unconstitutional to imply that a college is given some bizarre jurisprudence over their students, and that they have the ultimate authority to replace a true justice system. Colleges do many things well, but they are not court systems. Now the school will involve experienced attorneys in all cases of sexual assault in order to make sure all investigations are done fully, and that the new legal guidelines are followed completely. Having worked with the Dean of Students Office in the past, I have tremendous confidence in their abilities to be thorough and diligent, but there is something comforting in the fact that a trained professional is now involved in this delicate and important process. Instead of being disconnected from the national legal system, the process is included, if only to this small degree.

The second change is in pursuance of other new federal regulations and leaves me with a few more questions. Obviously I believe Hamilton should follow the law, and in this case, I am not questioning the law, but rather, how its premise should apply to other aspects of the College. The new regulations prohibit student boards that are responsible for sanctioning sexual assault perpetrators. For reasons involving privacy, fairness and seriousness, I can understand this stipulation. In our current age of under-reporting and lackluster college responses, I support trying to treat these cases with the most care possible. But if students are not allowed to examine and sanction each other here, should the same rule apply to all judiciary cases? As a former member of the Judicial Board, I speak with open bias, but I think the Board is currently functional and harmless. The problem is where they draw the line between situations the government and the College entrust students to oversee and the ones they do not? If it is a matter of rape involving two parties, does the chance for conflict of interest at a small school like Hamilton rise drastically? Is it that the personal violation of another person is something more grievous than poor personal choices which only affect the perpetrator? In both cases, I would argue yes, but each type of situation could still eventually result in suspension or expulsion. Is that level of responsibility and authority something else the system should consider when appointing students?

To be clear, the Board is always composed of three students and two faculty or staff members. Therefore, we are not alone in these cases. I hope that conversations at a legal and administrative level begin parsing out what makes sexual assault so different from other issues that student input is prohibited—whether or not similar policies should be applied to any case where a student's academic future is in jeopardy.

I fully support all the current recommendations and changes, and simply hope to highlight how these changes will improve Hamilton's and all colleges' approaches to sexual harassment and assault while also extending some recommendations guiding principles out onto the other areas of our judicial system. Maybe it will simply help illuminate the serious difference in the nature if different crimes. Maybe it will encourage thoughtful conversations on how we should handle students' futures, and what checks and balances there are in place to protect them from what may be well-meaning but are ultimately inexperienced hands. It may simply involve reviewing Judicial Board and Honor Court performance at the end of each semester or maybe implementing a more rigorous selection process. For now, I think the conversation should stay on sexual misconduct, but I hope some day, it spurs an all-encompassing discussion as well.

The pressures of being a first-year

by Deasia Hawkins '18
Opinion Contributor

Before even being admitted to college, admissions offices across the country are putting us into categories. They judge us based on test scores, GPAs, disciplinary reports, volunteerism and athleticism, then label us based on these simplified versions of ourselves. The designation of scholar, philanthropist, athlete, author or activist—among many others—is thrust upon each of us, and we are expected to adhere to those titles to fill the mold and play our part. This branding amplifies as we step on campus. Upperclassmen automatically place us into specific cliques: the bookworms, jocks, underachievers, hipsters and many more denominations. At this point, who we claim or yearn to be is deemed insignificant in comparison to the already established caste system.

Hamilton is different from most colleges in that it supports a broad and open curriculum, which allows students to test the waters before choosing their concentration. We are given the freedom to pick which classes to take and what clubs to join. However, in a society valuing certain professions over others and asking students to determine their life goals at a young age, we are pressured into taking classes which will ultimately make us unhappy, but successful. In other words, first-years ask themselves what degree will give them the most lucrative job. These are the universal concerns all college students share. Yet, first-years are pulled into a world full of new prospects and adventures, in which we are ignorant. We yearn to explore, create, wander and get lost, but these curiosities are stifled by our awareness that taking a Women's Studies class does not contribute to becoming an engineer. Learning German is not a necessary life skill in becoming an artist. We know that in order to secure a profitable job after college—in order to be successful—we have to start college with the right classes and the best connections.

While choosing our futures based on external pressures, we also go through the complexities of building friendships and falling in love. Without a doubt, orientation was an extended ice-breaker. Between mandatory dinners and games of Ninja, we were trying our best to learn each other's names, find friends who had similar tastes and maintain friendships from pre-orientation and summer programs. It is emotionally taxing to find compatible friends when we are not even sure who we are ourselves. It is difficult for some first-years to find instant connections. Usually, these are the people who search for acceptance rather than mere companionship. The search for friendship is not always successful within the first few weeks of school. Although some blame it on a lack of social skills or ambition, it is not a lost cause which others should pity; it just means that, for the time being, some first-years find Netflix a better companion.

Then, there is love. Instantaneous physical connections between two hormonal teenagers are common in college; however, some confuse lust for love, tiptoing to a late-night rendezvous or prowling the campus for prospective suitors. While many indulge in these acts, other students seriously question if love can survive on a college campus. Upperclassmen have warned time and time again that relationships just do not work here; Hamilton is too small and nothing is private. Some of us come here swooning and faithful, but this negative assertion leaves us confused and somewhat delirious. There are some who honestly do not care about love or hooking-up and may actually be the lucky ones. However, the majority of students want someone to love them, even if we haven't learned to love ourselves.

Personally, I am deeply scared. There are no true guidelines on how to maneuver through college life, whom to be friends with, which classes are the most beneficial or how to find love. Upperclassmen probably went through the same phase of uncertainty and Netflix-binging, and now it's our turn.

The pressure of finding the best path and the right connections, all while keeping your sanity, is a lot to ask from a first-year, especially when you are still trying to figure out the person you want to be. We aren't sure if it's okay to be homesick already or if the lightside-darkside rivalry is real. I don't think any of us are truly ready to face these challenges, even though we know that one day we will have to step up and try to find a space where we can belong.

Letter to the Editor

Re: Sex and the Campus: The First-Year's Guide to Getting Some (Respect)

Although I applaud the ideas behind *The Spectator's* "Sex and the Campus" column which promotes a healthy sexual culture, the eradication of slut-shaming, and mutual respect between partners, I take issue with some of the points expressed in its most recent article. The author seems to draw a rigid line between hook-ups and relationships. She claims that in a hook-up situation, your partner only "care[s] about your body, your face and the way you're dressed" rather than the "interesting parts [of your personality]."

The picture this paints of hook-up culture is one in which each partner is completely devoid of interest and care for the other as a human being and in which the other partner is reduced to a sexual object. Even though I think these completely physical relationships are an important and necessary part of a healthy sexual culture, and that they certainly should not have any stigma attached to them (promiscuity, slut-shaming, manwhore, what have you), it is important to note that not all hook-ups follow this physical formula. In some hook-up situations, the partners do actually talk to each other before-hand, develop a sincere interest in the other in as short as the time it takes to drink a beer, and become interested. Some have suggested that knowing the other person as an individual, even in the slightest can improve the sexual experience. Furthermore, I know of situations in which two people looking for sex met up through Tinder and later became best friends.

I strongly approve of the sexual positivity put forward by this column. Furthermore I understand that the author's comments are warnings for those expecting more out of a hook-up than his or her partner might want. However, it is important to note that many sexual partners are invested in each other as human beings, and are sometimes better off because of it.

—Brendon Kaufman '15

Bachelor and Bachelorette

Jack Pierce '17

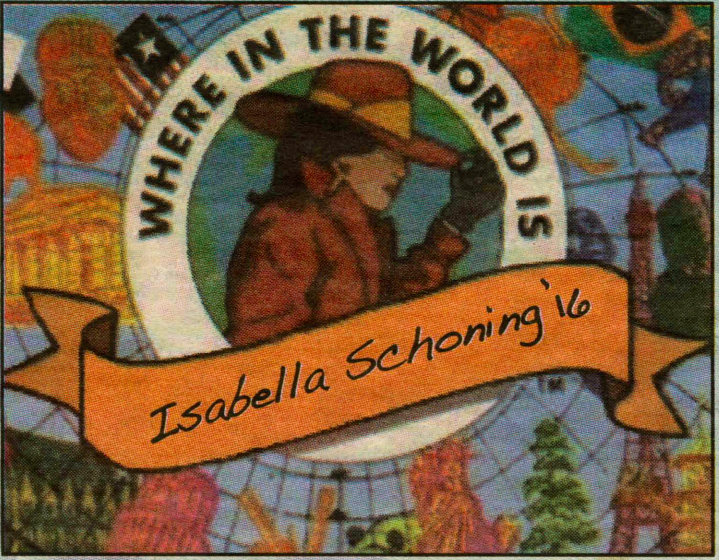
PHOTO COURTESY OF JACK PIERCE '17

Hometown: *New Gloucester, ME.*
Home on Campus: *Kirkland 114.*
Major: *Computer Science.*
Turn On? *Hair bows/ribbons.*
Turn Off? *Those high-waisted shorts/pants things. And eggplants. Blech.*
If you were a dorm which would you be and why? *The Co-Op because dare to be different. And learn how to do stuff for yourself already!*
Lights on or lights off? *Depends on the girl I suppose...*
If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians, whom would you pick and why? *Natalie MacMaster, the Celtic fiddler, and my neighbor who is also a banker, pilot, banjo player and still has great hair in his 60's.*
What's the best pick-up line you've ever used/had used on you? *Nice to meet you! I'm a nerd too by the way...*
What's your type? *Functional, practical, (romantic?) outdoorsy, but not too much so. Athletic, no blue/pink/green hair, but that goes with the functional thing.*
What are three things you cannot live without? *Music, my friends and the chocolate milk in Commons (It's still "free"??!!).*
If you were any social space, what would it be? *The Barn. It's sick.*
If you could join one group on campus, what would it be? *An a cappella group. It just looks like so much fun.*
What's your spirit animal and why? *Dori from* Finding Nemo, *because we both have blue dorsal fins.*
If you could break one rule at Hamilton and get away with it, which would you choose? *I wouldn't ever include a works cited. #badass.*
What would you give a thumbs up? *This school. There aren't many things we do wrong here. And* Calvin and Hobbes. *And starting sentences with 'and's'.*
What would you give a thumbs down? *Dunham Quads. Dunham Bathrooms. Dunham Hallways. Make that just Dunham in general. Burn it down already.*
Who would you say is your campus crush? *Lindsay Arader. That girl is awesome.*
Who would you say is your faculty crush? *Umm... Tina, the server in Commons? She's my favorite. We get the broccoli banter going every time.*
What would your perfect date be? *Some type of adventure, maybe a backpacking trip? Oh, and on the adventure something has to go wrong. Not a big thing, but something that we can laugh about.*
What is the weirdest thing currently in your room? *Knitting needles and a half-finished sweater.*

Danielle Nelson '16

PHOTO COURTESY OF DANIELLE NELSON '16

Hometown: *New York City, N.Y.*
Home on Campus: *Dunham.*
Major: *Communications, Art Minor.*
Turn On? *Great sense of humor, tall, good dancer.*
Turn Off? *Arrogance.*
If you were a dorm which would you be and why? *Milbank/Babbitt, because to me the suites symbolize friendship, fun and really good times.*
Lights on or lights off? *Both.*
If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians, whom would you pick and why? *Blue Ivy because my mother is a goddess, and my father spoils me. Besides, we all know that the Carter family is royalty, #Beyhive.*
What advertising slogan best describes your life? *Just do it—Nike.*
What TV genre best describes you? *Comedy, it's an absurd combination but think* Sex in the City *meets* The Boondocks.
What's the best pick-up line you've ever used/had used on you? *Those don't work on me.*
What's your type? *Tall and attractive.*
What are three things you cannot live without? *Internet, books and music.*
If you were any social space, what would it be? *The Annex.*
Where do you go when you want to be alone? *My dorm.*
If you could join one group on campus, what would it be? *Yoga Club.*
What's your spirit animal and why? *A wolf because they are intelligent and loyal but also strong and protective.*
If you could break one rule at Hamilton and get away with it, which would you choose? *Missing as many classes as I want without it affecting my grade.*
What would you give a thumbs up? *The streaking team running through Commons.*
What would you give a thumbs down? *Campo ruining every party on campus...every weekend.*
What is the weirdest thing currently in your room? *A random slinky on my desk.*
If you could remake the points system, what would be the number one offense? *Sexual assault.*
If you were a food, which would you be and why? *Pasta, because it's amazing and goes great with wine.*



by Isabella Schoning '16
Features Contributor

My alarm goes off at 8 a.m. and I open my eyes to sunlight. During the summer-white nights, the sun never truly sets. I get dressed and head into the kitchen for breakfast, where a pot of warm kasha (oatmeal made from buckwheat) awaits. Since the tap water is undrinkable here, my host family has to boil the water before drinking it. After filling my water bottle, I take copies of my papers in my bag and head out the door. I enter the busy street and cars scream by me swerving around each other. I shake my head and make my way towards the bus stop.

I watch as marshrutka after marshrutka stop along the road to pick up more people than you think could fit in a van. Marshrutkas are privately-owned buses that run a certain route but will stop anywhere along that route to let you off. Finally, my bus comes and I step on, take a seat and wait for the person in the orange vest to give me a ticket in exchange for 25 rubles (about 67 cents).

As I'm riding past the elaborate, baroque, yet damaged and unkempt buildings, I observe the people on the bus. Some men with briefcases seem to be going to work; a boy in jeans listens to his iPod as he gazes out the window; two young women in short skirts, tight tops and high heels sit with large bags on their laps and sunglasses on their heads; two elderly women sit near the front, wearing flat shoes, long skirts, light jackets and scarves covering their head. They hold their bags on their laps and stare at the other passengers on the bus. They are known as babushkas, or "grandmothers," and nobody messes with them.

We cross two bridges, pass the ornate, blue-and-white Hermitage (one of the world's largest art museums) and drive a little ways on Nevsky Prospekt (the main street in St. Petersburg). The bus fills up and some passengers need to stand. At the next stop, a babushka comes slowly on the bus. She approaches the young boy on his iPod, who rises to give her his seat. If he hadn't, very strong, spiteful words would have been said by the other babushkas.

Finally, we reach St. Isaac's Cathedral, the fourth largest cathedral in the world. I remember visiting this cathedral the first week I arrived in St. Petersburg; its large, stone pillars and golden dome are impressive from the outside, but the inside is even more striking. The walls and ceiling are covered with hundreds of colorful mosaics.

I get off at my stop, walking the rest of the way to Smolny College. Along the way, two locals ask me for directions, and I do my best to answer them. I've been asked for directions at least three times a week since my arrival—and now I can actually answer them!

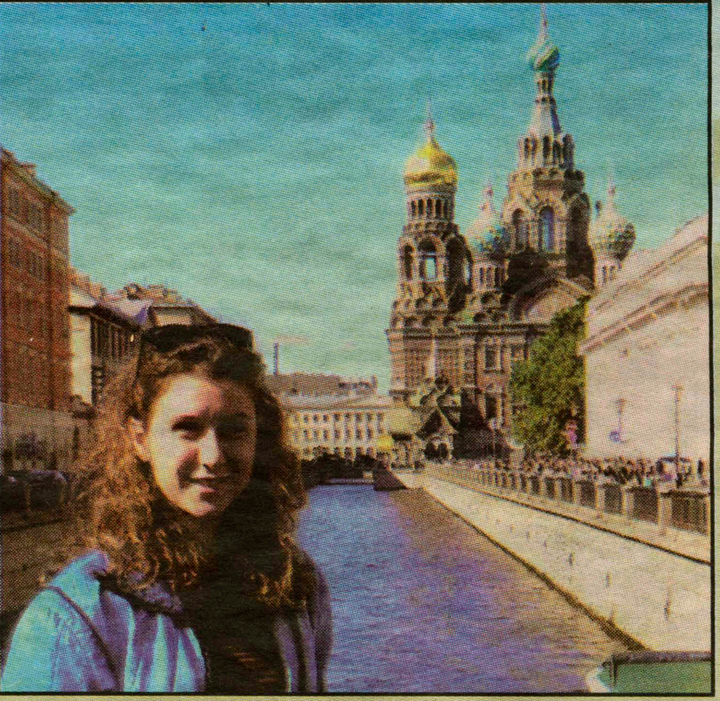
I continue the familiar route to school: past the men drinking in the park, the many buildings covered with green tarp and the food stands on the corner selling blinis (Russian crêpes).

I encounter dirty gasoline, cigarette smoke, asphalt from construction sites, sewage, garbage and other unpleasant smells that cannot be explained. Only every now and then I smell freshly baked bread or pirogis wafting out from a café or food store.

When I get to the school's only entrance, I scan my ID card and pass through the turnstile. The college is one building with two courtyards. First, I have Russian grammar class with other Americans in the program, then History of Russian Autocracy alongside Russian students. All of my classes are taught in Russian.

After school, I usually walk around the city or go to a café with some friends. In the summer, St. Petersburg can be very hot and filled with tourists, but in the fall, the temperature is perfect; there are fewer tourists, and families have arrived back from their dachas, summer homes in the country. Now that families populate the city, many faces on the street have changed from serious and cold to smiling and laughing. Family is the center of Russian culture, and kids are the center of the family.

St. Petersburg was built to resemble Amsterdam, so there are many beautiful bridges and canals to walk along. The city also has many great museums, some of which are pretty strange. The ones I have visited include: the Hermitage, Erarta (contemporary art), the vodka museum, the cat museum (St. Petersburg has a thing for cats), the Museum of Strange Things, the Freud Museum and more. It's also great to visit the city's suburbs, where you find forests, summer palaces once owned by nobility and beaches.



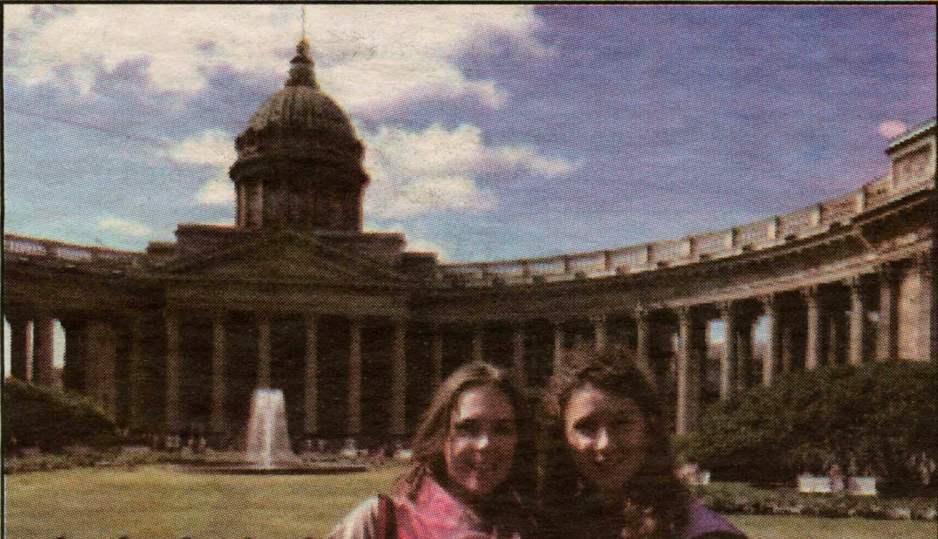
Bella Schoning '16 at one of the main sights in St. Petersburg, the Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood.

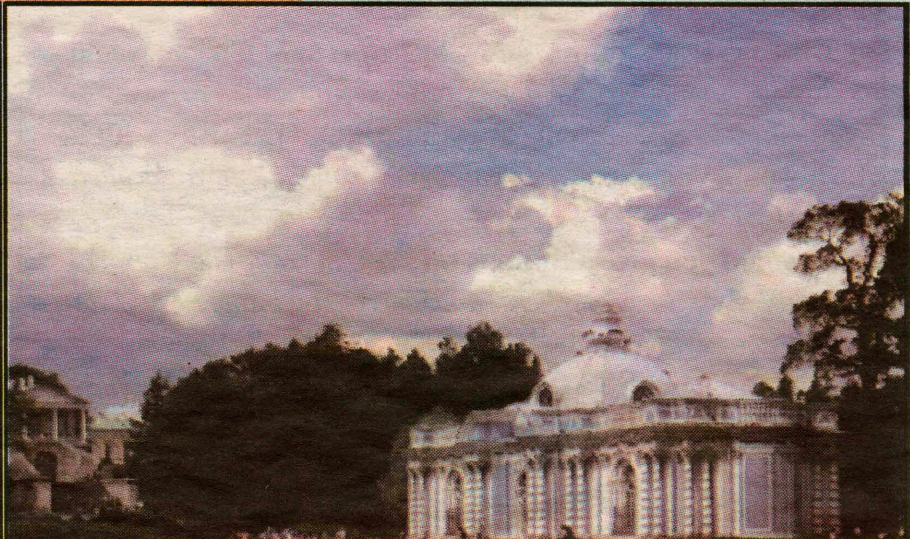
I've been to the Church on Spilled Blood, tanned in the Field of Mars, toured numerous baroque palaces and had picnics in many parks and gardens. I've seen a ballet and an opera, and I plan to go to the circus. I've been to a jazz concert in a park and gone spelunking in the woods with my host brother. And almost every day since I got here, I've witnessed a wedding.

When I get home to my host family, the three small girls are running around naked, chasing each other and screaming. Other family members are scattered throughout the house. I live in an apartment with ten other people, and although it has eight rooms and two bathrooms, there's no open space. There's no living room, only two long, narrow hallways with rooms coming off them. The gathering space is in the kitchen, which has a table that seats only four people, and if there's no one in the kitchen, then they are in their room with the door shut. But being in a small, closed room can be extremely stuffy and hot during the summer since there's no air conditioning or ventilation systems.

For dinner, Tatyana, the housekeeper, makes traditional Russian cuisine: borsch, herring under a fur coat, chicken, cucumber and tomato salad and more. Some things I've noticed about the food: Russians love to soak their food in fat, whether it be butter, oil, or mayonnaise; they use dill frequently and they eat a lot of chicken.

Towards the end of the summer it wouldn't get dark until 1 a.m., but now the sun sets around 9 p.m. After doing my homework and browsing the web. I lay my head down and go to bed, exhausted. On the wall next to my bed hangs a brown, flower-patterned carpet that covers the entire wall, good insulation for the coming winter.





(Left): Schoning '16 and friend posing in front of Kazan Cathedral (Right): The Summer Palace of Catherine the Great in Pushkin

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ISABELLA SCHONING '16

Senior Reflection
Piertotum Locomotor*

by Anthony Jackson '15
Features Contributor

PHOTO COURTESY OF ANTHONY JACKSON '15

Being asked to write a senior reflection column is daunting for all sorts of reasons, one of which is the gentle reminder that you're on the way out. Plus you need to find a place to live, a job and write two theses while you figure it out. Another reason is a familiar one: What in the Hell do I write about? After sifting through some of the misty, water-colored memories of the Hill, I found a recurring theme: duty. It's a seemingly strange theme for one's fondest memories, but it has fueled my campus experience for longer than I've known. By the end of this, hopefully, you'll understand why.

When welcomed into the Hamilton fold, there are a few things you can expect to hear: "These are going to be the greatest years of your life," "The friends you make here will be with you forever," and, of course, "Cherish every moment because it goes fast." You might hear some…friendly reminders, such as, "Hamilton is a private institution, and being here is a privilege." You might also be warned about the academic rigor, the brutal winters and the professors you may want to avoid. But few people tell you about your duty as student of the College—beyond showing up and completing assignments, that is.

Simply put, the duty of every Hamilton student is to bequeath a version of the College that is healthier and stronger than the one he or she inherited. In response, some will say that this task is better left to the College's senior officers and trustees, and that is partially true. It is, indeed, the job of these officials to advance this intuition. But there's a large fact that such a respondents would be overlooking: there can be no college without students, and the truest testimony of a college's worth lies in its students and alumni. Every service provided by the College is to increase the quality of the Hamilton experience, thereby increasing the worth and competitiveness of a Hamilton degree. If you missed the point of that, the people experiencing the College are students; therefore, the best thing students can do is be part of the reshaping process as much as possible. Because despite being compassionate, dedicated stewards and kick-ass at their jobs, Hamilton's officials need our help.

This duty and this need have been obvious to me at various points during my time here, but I'll share three now. During the first, the student body had just gotten wind of a pledging policy change, and all the Greek presidents gathered to strategize a collective opposition. At the end of our strategy session, a senior making an early departure looked around the room and said, "This is one of the greatest things I've ever seen at Hamilton." The second was at my first trustee meeting. I was sitting next to Art Massolo '64, and, as I began to make a comment, he nudged me and whispered, "Stand up. Let 'em see you." The third was at the end of my time as Student Assembly President. Dean of Students Nancy Thompson had just wrapped up our last meeting and said something along these lines: "I appreciate the job you've done. You've never left any confusion about who you represent, and you've always been diplomatic about your approach."

Those three moments are of my favorites because they illuminate the importance of unapologetic student leadership; they showed me that students desire, deserve, and should demand a seat at the table... because it's theirs.

*"Hogwarts is threatened!" shouted Professor McGonagall. "Man the boundaries, protect us, do your duty to our school!"

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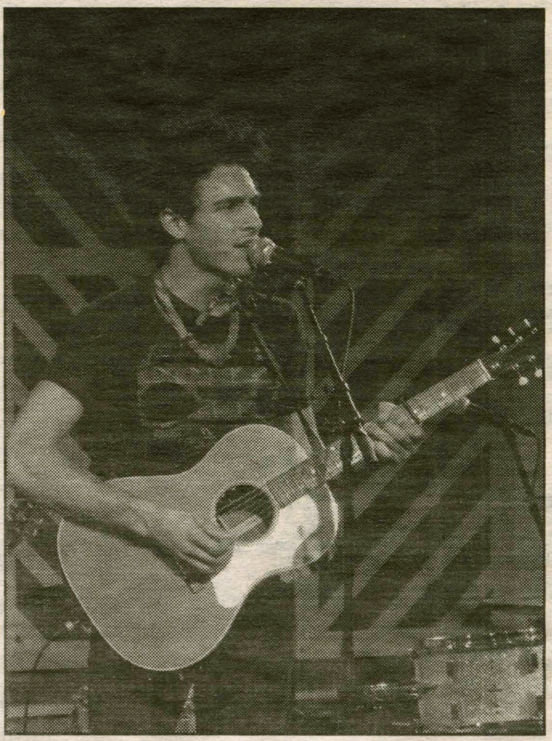
First CAB acoustic coffeehouse showcases promising young talent

by Caroline Harrington '16
Arts & Entertainment Contributor

A new year on the Hill means a new set of exciting acoustic coffeehouses presented by CAB. Last Thursday, Sept. 4, recording artists Marc Scibilia and Alice Limoges performed in the Filius Events Barn. Limoges, a singer-songwriter from Maine, is a peppy, young artist who began the night singing "I'm So Good At Hello." This proved a true statement, as her amazing talent immediately enraptured the audience.

Accompanied by Limoges' guitar, a violinist and a keyboardist, this first song started off slowly, then picked up with high-energy guitar playing and strong vocals. The emotional aspects of her songs and her ability to belt out lyrics resembled a folksier version of Adele.

Limonges' singing style has the ability to transform over the course of a single song; their slow beginnings contrast drastically with their high-tempo endings. Emanating passion, her music seems to take the audience on a roller coaster of feeling. Plucking her guitar, she manipulated the audience's emotions with her skillful expression. One of her most memorable songs, "The Lucky One," is about a girl from her past. Using the beauty of the violin, she took the audience on a waltz around the barn. Limoges will release her new album *As Close As You Can Be Without Touching* later this year, which she advertised throughout the performance of the album's title song.



Scibilia also demonstrated his aptitude as a solo artist.

Following Limoges' powerful performance, Scibilia kicked off his set list with his newest song, "Finally." The song was low-key, with just the accompaniment of his electric guitar. The song was lyrically beautiful and exciting, which make me fall in love with Scibilia as he strummed his guitar. At the end of the song, two men—Eric Montgomery and Scibilia's brother, Matthew—ran onto the stage and gracefully started rocking out to a song about "those damn voices in [their] heads."

PHOTO BY BENJAMIN MITTMAN '18

Marc Scibilia, with Eric Montgomery and brother Matthew, inspired students to dance to the music.

Throughout his performance, Scibilia shared some songs from his newest EP, *The Shape I'm In*. The full album will be coming out early next year. As the third song began to pick up, a group of girls got up to dance in front of the stage. After a few verses, I got up and joined them, too.

The peak of the performance was when Scibilia played his 2012 No.1 iTunes singer-songwriter single "How Bad We Need Each Other." Scibilia shared the chorus with the audience and invited us to clap and sing along. The reaction was phenomenal. Filled with many people dancing and almost everyone singing, the Barn has likely never hosted an acoustic coffeehouse with so much energy.

Beginning with the amazing talent of Alice Limoges and Marc Scibilia, Hamilton College can sure anticipate a great year of CAB acoustic coffeehouse performances.

Coming soon to Hamilton: A Far Cry

by Haley Lynch '17
Arts & Entertainment Editor

This Saturday, Sept. 13, a self-conducted chamber orchestra called A Far Cry will be visiting campus. Founded in 2007 by a young collective of Boston-based artists, the group focuses on testing the boundaries of traditional Western classical music. For this performance, A Far Cry will be joined by former child prodigy and current professional violinist Augustin Hadelich.

A Far Cry works to change the ways music is prepared using an innovative rotating leadership structure to ensure that every voice is heard. This way, every sound produced is a result of the collaborative perspectives of every musician in the group. As an ensemble, A Far Cry is dedicated to exposing the community to music, as well as helping to educate fellow musicians in the area. As many of the founding members of the group met during their training at the New England Conservatory (NEC) in Boston, the ensemble has continued to carry strong ties with the school. Members of A Far Cry collaborate especially with NEC Preparatory students, helping to coach orchestra sectionals and invite select students to join the group in concert. In this way, the group continues to confirm its commitment not only to producing and performing music, but to passing the art of music-making on to the next generation.

A Far Cry has performed more than 300 concerts from coast to coast and around the globe. In Boston, the group presides as String Orchestra in Residence for the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. Its performances are widely commended for exceedingly high degrees of precision and musicianship, as well as for the group's ability to perform in synergy while continuing to showcase the diversity of the ensemble's individual personalities. *The Boston Globe* praised A Far Cry for its "high musical standards and unbridled idealism."

The group has recorded six CDs, including its most recent title *Dreams and Prayers*, released this past Tuesday. This recording is due to include A Far Cry's own arrangements of music by Hildegard von Bingen and Ludwig van Beethoven, as well as current works by artists like Mehmet Ali Sanlikol and Osvaldo Golijov. This juxtaposition of old and new pieces in one album typifies the style of the radical group.

PHOTO FROM SEQUENZA21.COM

***The Boston Globe* named A Far Cry in its "Critic's Picks for Top 10 Classical Performances" in 2012.**

The program on the Hill is set to include contemporary composer Thomas Adès's "Arcadiana," a piece in which "the idyllic and the terrifying are closely intertwined," according to *The New York Times*. This emotional, modern piece will serve as a forward to Dmitri Shostakovich's "Violin Sonata," which will bring the audience on a sonic journey in search of the idyllic. It will also showcase the ensemble's interest in artistic creativity and exploration in tandem with precision and discipline. Shostakovich composed movements influenced by Bach, and contrasted them with movements reminiscent of "klezmer," or Jewish folk music. Finally, Leoš Janáček's "Idyll," is sure to round out the performance with a sense of forward-looking beauty, perfect for a progressive group such as A Far Cry.

While the artists are working both on and off stage to change the ways music is prepared and performed, they are also changing the way in which music is experienced. Their animated stage presence has captured the hearts of many young musicians across the world, and their visit to Hamilton is much anticipated. A Far Cry will perform in Wellin Hall this Saturday, Sept. 13 at 7:30p.m.

Jazz Kick-Off concert brings the funk

by Lucas Phillips '16
Creative Director

Celebrating his 21st year at Hamilton, Professor of Music Michael "Doc" Woods let loose in his annual Jazz Kick-Off concert. In contrast to last year's chamber music-infused "Chambuh Flav," Woods combined classic funk and swing in his program, "Funk Republic." According to the program notes, the pieces depicted a "magical kingdom that can exist inside any nation…where there is no war, no hatred and no lies being told."

The night started with the most straight-ahead swing tune on the concert, "Step It Up." Reminiscent of the Motown half-step modulation, each new section of the song was a half-step up from the last. Particularly worth noting was drummer Jakubu Griffin's sensitive comping on Wood's bass solo. After the show, Griffin explained, "I've been playing with Doc so long, I just get the flow of it."

> I wanted the weight [of rhythm]; I wanted the funk."
> *-Professor Michael "Doc" Woods*

Next up was the funk that the show title promised. "Halley's Comment," named for the fictional president of the Funk Republic, started with a guitar solo a la "What is Hip?" by Tower of Power. Woods noted, "You're in the mind of the Funk Republic if you hear Earth Wind and Fire,and Tower of Power." Thereafter, motives seemingly straight out of the Philadelphia Soul sound came in solos and Wood's compositions. This gave the program a sense of overall unity and a distinct character. Trumpeter Jeff Stockham took a great solo on this piece with his piccolo trumpet, picking up on the staccato gesturing of Wood's preceding solo.

"Walk in the Park," which followed, was an unexpected step away in character. In a flowing 3/4, Woods evoked the peacefulness of the Root Glen with one of his lushest melodies. In a lovely compositional twist, the piece began with only horns and drums. His humor temporarily put aside, Woods mixed happiness and poignency to great effect.

The feeling of introspection continued with a solo piano piece, "Who Can I Turn Into: The Prelude," performed by Coordinator of Staff Pianists Sar-Shalom Strong. In this case, the piece slowly turned into a dissonant rag from a touching, Debussy-like sonata, and back again. Woods introduced the song, explaining, "I like to write pieces that inform us about our society." The piece made me feel as if there were high stakes involved in how the piece would end and what the character would ultimately turn into. Would it end in the clouds of dissonance from the middle section, or the impressionistic motives of the opening? In fact, it ended sweetly in between with a simple major 7 chord.

The band picked up with the companion piece, "Who Can I Turn Into: The Tune" with pianist/keyboardist Tom Witkowski back on the piano. Witkowski answered Strong's formidable playing with his own, playing an understated though wonderfully melodic solo.

On the next piece, "King For a Day," the funk was back. Envisioning what it would be like to be Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for a day, the song was catchy enough that the usually reserved Stockham was dancing a bit during the solo section.

The good vibes feel kept up under "Shirley E. Will." The melody had the quality of a person speaking, something I've very rarely heard to that degree in performance. Remarkably, it felt reassuring.

"Funk Republic," which followed, brought back the funk. After "Snark Cotics," a reference to the up-and-coming jazz group, Snarky Puppy, had a quality unlike others on the program. It had a swing feel with dashes of funk, especially coming from Woods' motific breaks from his walking lines. Griffin took a trance-like solo with a texture that flowed unaccountably on-and-on until merging into an almost rock solo on the snare and toms.

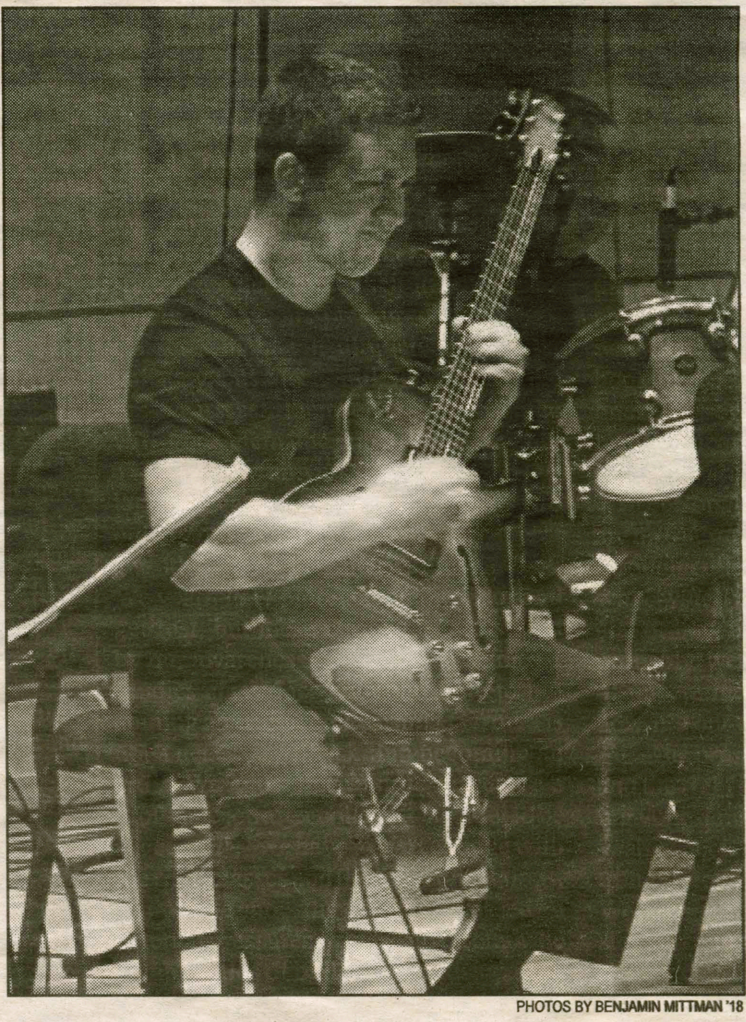
The band finished up with "Find Your Way Out," another funk tune with Woods' characteristic humor.

The program felt a far-cry from Woods' last Jazz Kick-Off concert, which was characterized by an unusual instrumentation (including a violin and a bassoon), dissonance-laden compositions, and expansive ensemble writing. "Funk Republic" was less intense and ultimately more accessible. Woods commented that although modern jazz writing has commonly become textural or challengingly complex, "people still dig melodies." He continued, "everyone can follow rhythm….I wanted the weight [of rhythm]; I wanted the funk."

When I asked Stockham what he thought of the differences between last year's concert and this year's, he said that most things were still the same. "The music is always challenging, always in Doc's style." Stockham continued, "surprise is always there… there's never a dull moment."

> "The music is always challenging, always in Doc's style.... there's never a dull moment."
> *-Jeff Stockham, trumpet*

Tom Witkowski smashes the piano keys while the horn section plays.



PHOTOS BY BENJAMIN MITTMAN '18

Local guitarist Joe Handy wails on the guitar as part of Funk Republic's eclectic ensemble.

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Cross country teams win short course invitational

by Joe Jensen '15
Sports Writer

For most sports, running is a form of punishment, and most athletes will attest that conditioning is always a dreaded part of practice. However, that is not the case for cross-country runners, as they are wired to run miles on end while enjoying every bit of it. Though the Hamilton College cross country team is just starting its season the runners have been training year round.

This year the men's team will be led by Ben Yeo '15 and Dan Baer '15. Though they only have two seniors, the team has six experienced juniors, such as Harry Sullivan '16 and Evan Abelson '16. Baer pointed out the strengths of the team, saying, "In recent years we have had some amazing runners come through the program, but we have never had a team as deep we do this year, which is gonna be a crucial component to our success come championship season."

When asked about his expectations for this season, Yeo replied, "We have the talent to qualify as a team for Division III XC nationals." Baer had a similar response, expecting to, "climb up the Atlantic Region rankings and knock off some of the historically top teams in our region." This will not be an easy task, but the team has put in countless hours of work and shows no signs of letting up now.

The women's team will be lead by seniors Tina Choinski, Emily Banzer, Hallie Loft and Edie Wilson. Also looking to have a big part in the success of the team are Lainie Smith '16 and Samantha Buttrick '17. When asked about the team's best aspect, Choinski responded, "The strengths of the team are its strong top runners and the pack running utilized by everyone."

Banzer went on to reply about the keys to a successful season, "It's going to be important for us to perform well week to week, but also to think long-term. Since all of our championship meets are later in the season, we need to do everything possible to ensure everyone is healthy and 100% prepared for those November meets."

Just like the men's team, the women aspire to a productive season. Choinski noted, "I think we are going to have a successful outcome at both NESCACs and Regionals this year!" If everyone stays healthy and continue to improve as a team they can make a good run this season.

"In recent years we have had some amazing runners come through the program, but we have never had a team as deep as we do this year."
—Dan Baer '15

PHOTO BY AUDREY NADLER '18
The cross country teams could qualify for nationals this season.

This past weekend on Sept. 6 the Continentals began their season with the annual Hamilton Short Course Invitational. The men and women posted strong starts, winning both team titles while also having individuals take first place. Despite the size of the meet being relatively small, the competition was still strong, as Division I Sienna was one of the three schools competing.

On the men's side, Yeo led the field in covering the six-kilometer course in 19:44. Sullivan, Jack Pierce '17, Abelson and Baer rounded out the top five among Hamilton runners, taking second, fourth, sixth and eighth place respectively.

Yeo was also pleased with the performance of the first-years, "It was great to see our freshman—[Peter Deweirdt], Henry [Whipple] and Erich [Wohl]—step up in their first collegiate race and run tough against Siena's lead pack." This bodes well not only for additional depth this year but also for the future of the program.

Smith won the women's race, finishing the four-kilometer course in 15:23.2. Placing in Hamilton's top five were Hanna Jerome '18, Lindsay Heyer '17, Lilly Pieper '18 and Banzer, finishing fourth, seventh, eighth and tenth, respectively. Choinski also expressed her happiness with the performance of the first-years, "I'm really proud of all the freshmen for having a great first collegiate race! Awesome job girls!"

The Continentals will compete next at the Saratoga Invitational on Sept. 13. They will look to build on an impressive start and keep competing at a high level.

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M. Soccer beats Oswego, rallies against Trinity

by Sirianna Santacrosse '15
Senior Editor

For any team, a win is a great way to start off the season. The men's soccer 3-0 victory against the SUNY Oswego Lakers last Wednesday Sept. 3, followed by a 1-1 tie with the Trinity Bantams on Saturday Sept. 6, proved to set just the right tone for the start to the rest of the season.

On Sept. 3, the Continentals dominated the field with three goals made by Alec Talsania '17 and captains Griffin Abbott '15 and Dan Kraynak '15. Abbott scored his sixth collegiate goal in the seveth minute of the game, making a low shot inside the post off an assist from Talsania.

Less than 20 minutes later, Bayard Geeslin '16 passed to Talsania, who scored the second goal of the game. Kraynack shot past Oswego goalkeeper Todd Lawson '16 on a penalty kick halfway through the second half, giving Hamilton a three-shot advantage over the Lakers. Goalie Harris Pollack '17 exhibited excellent skill and consistency, earning his first collegiate shutout.

Pollack said while it was rewarding to earn the shutout, the entire team pulled together for the win. "Each and every player worked hard off the ball to ensure that SUNY Oswego players had very limited shot opportunities…My teammates…were the ones working hard and making my job easy," he said. Kraynak added, "I thought we managed the pace of the game well, which led to the win."

Three days later, the Continentals faced their first conference game of the season against Trinity. Neither team managed to get points on the scoreboard until the second half, when Bantam Cody Savonen '17 scored in the 58th minute, followed by a goal made by Kraynak eight minutes later. He scored off of an attempted shot by Talsania, whose shot bounced off the goal post and landed in front of Kraynak.

> **"We have a lot of firepower going forward on the attack...We just have to continue to work on finishing our chances going forward in the season."**
>
> *—Greg Scott '14*

PHOTO BY ALICJA ZAK '15

Bayard Geeslin '16 is one of several returning starters on a veteran team.

Both teams also came close to winning the game, with Hamilton scoring a goal that was nullified by an offsides call from the line judge.

Additionally, Pollack made an extremely timely save with under nine minutes left when Trinity's Savonen received a breakaway opportunity. Taking a gamble in rushing far out of his net, Harris was able to chip the ball away from Savonen at the top of the box and stifle the golden scoring opportunity.

The two teams continued to play neck-in-neck in overtime, during which Trinity's keeper Jason Katz '15 made five saves. John McGuinnis '16 notably had a breakaway from two Bantam defenders but shot wide.

On the Trinity game, Talsania said, "Unfortunately, we couldn't get the win… because we couldn't finish some of our attacking chances." However, he lauded the defense for its strength in both the Oswego and Trinity games. "We have four very experienced players back there to trust…When they don't give the other team many shots, they give the offense an opportunity to win the games." Nick Yepes '15, who attended the Trinity game, said Buck Reynolds '15 led the defense and "was always where he needed to be."

Looking ahead, the Continentals are hoping to carry this positive momentum into future games. Pollack said, "We will definitely work on putting away all our chances and improving our play on and off the ball."

Similarly, Talsania noted, "We have a lot of firepower going forward on the attack… We just have to continue to work on finishing our chances going forward in the season."

After their heart-stopping finish against Trinity, the men's team will look to bring home its first conference win of the season on Sept. 13, when they will play the Bates Bobcats in Lewiston, Maine.

Volleyball starts season strong

*from **Volleyball**, page 16*

made sure we were in the gym getting strong and preparing for the season. I think the team overall is much more physically strong than last year. So far they have been great leaders on and off the court."

Coach Erin Glaser reflected on the seniors as well and noted, "The senior class is an incredibly focused and dedicated group. Their leadership has been outstanding so far. They know exactly what the team needs to hear and how to push them to get better. They have been very good at keeping everyone motivated through a very demanding preseason and I can feel the positive energy impacting everyone."

> **"I think the team overall is much more physically strong than last year. So far [the seniors] have been great leaders on and off the court"**
>
> *—Jessica Weston '17*

The season began on a high note on Sept. 2 at Morrisville State with a 3-1 win, well-deserved after a summer of intense conditioning.

With six new first-years, the team has immediately felt the benefits of a larger roster, both in practice and in-game situations.

"We have a very big first-year class. They have added a lot of energy and much needed depth to many different positions," commented Coach Glaser. "It's been great to have a practice with multiple players for each position so we can try out new things, challenge each other, and even have a few minutes to rest between plays. This past weekend our first-year class proved to be invaluable as we were able to switch up our lineups multiple times to show our opponents something different and keep them guessing."

Last weekend, Sept. 6, the Continentals traveled to the UR invitational tournament in Rochester, N.Y. Hamilton split their games in this tournament, with losses against Penn State-Behrend and St. John Fisher, and wins against SUNY Oswego and Rochester.

Moving forward, Glaser expressed "Our team goals are: precision, trust, team first and NESCAC Playoffs. This is an incredibly hard working group with a lot of potential. So much of our success so far this season is because the girls are really focused on perfecting their skills and pushing each other in practice."

This weekend, Sept. 13, the Continentals will travel to Oswego to compete in another tournament. The NESCAC opener will be on Sept. 19 at 8 p.m. in the Scott Field House, when Hamilton takes on Bates.

Tennis starts up this weekend

*from **Tennis**, page 16*

small roster size. Besides the graduations of team captains Meg Lee and Sara Shaughnessey, Isabella Schoning '16, who compiled a team-leading 16-6 singles mark last season, will be off campus for the fall portion of the schedule.

"As long as we keep up our intensity and stay healthy, I think we are in a position to do incredibly well," asserts Khanna. "We have quite a small team, so I really see everyone as being absolutely essential. More specifically, though, I see our two sophomores, Claire Keyte and Winnie Tang, stepping up. I can already see how much they've improved since last year, and think they're poised to do great things."

Rachel Friedman '15, who, is a returning senior along with Khanna, Liz Detwiler '15 and Anna Jaeger '15, also figures to post one of the team's top singles records. Friedman posted a 13-7 singles mark in 2013-14 and figures to face stiffer top-three competition this season. In anticipation, Friedman noted that she has been "working on setting up points and not going for too much on [her] shots too soon in the point," placing an emphasis on reducing risky errors.

Whereas the women's team is integrating promising players like Keyte and Tang into more prominent roles, the men's team is a year ahead in that cycle. Though last year's Hamilton squad took a small step back from a 9-9 in their 2012-13 campaign, the Continentals also lost just a single senior, Ben Swett.

James Oliver '15, who has been Hamilton's top singles player over the past two seasons, believes that the large amount of returning players should help the Continentals, who have won nine matches in back-to-back years after failing to do so for 16 straight seasons.

"I think that fielding a more experienced team makes a significant difference," said Oliver. "Now that most of our team has at least one full college season under their belt, we will play a lot less tense and we will be more comfortable going into big matches. There is a very talented team and as long as we stay focused and on course, I expect us to have a great season."

Oliver also noted a desire to improve his own net game in hopes of becoming a more versatile player capable of commanding points when forced off the baseline. While he figures to once again occupy the No. 1 singles position, Matt Billet '15 and Ian Antonoff '16 also posed to ascend to higher singles positions.

In addition, the doubles team of Austin Lokre '16 and Max McKee-Proctor '17 returns after tying the school record with 14 doubles wins. With Swett's graduation breaking up the Swett/Oliver doubles team, Lokre/McKee-Proctor represent Hamilton's top pairing for 2014-15.

The men kick off their fall slate with the St. Lawrence Fall Classic in Canton, N.Y. from Sept. 13-14, while the women begin with a home match on Sept. 12 against SUNY Cortland. With NESCAC portion of the schedule not kicking off until the spring, expect both Hamilton tennis teams to rack up plenty of victories while also building invaluable experience for the tougher conference slate next semester.

Hamilton students compete in 90-miler race

by Tucker Hamlin '17
Sports Editor

Last weekend, Sept. 6, Hamilton sent a small crew of brave canoers up north into the Adirondacks to tackle the annual Adirondack canoe classic. Lasting three days, the 90-miler attracts over 500 competitors from across the world to race from Old Forge Lake across Long Lake, finishing at Saranac Lake. Director of Outdoor Leadership Andrew Jillings captained a squad to tackle the course with multiple boats.

Andrew explained, "This year's race was really tough due to the weather extremes all the paddlers faced." While many people were enjoying the heat of last Friday, the weather unfortunately made it very difficult for the paddlers to keep cool. In addition, the wind blew across the lake, and as Jillings discussed, "Everyone had to paddle much harder on the right hand side, making for sore muscles and worse blisters on the right side."

Alex Doig '16, who competed in a two-person boat with Maggie Smith '17, described the grueling early-morning practices the competitors went through. "We held 6am practices for about two weeks at the end of spring semester. Starting a few days before classes began this fall, we held 6am practice for two weeks again. During the first week, we also practiced at 5pm. This may seem like a lot of practice, but in reality it takes years to perfect one's racing stroke."

As Jillings suggested, the rough weather conditions only compounded the fatigue. "The first day of the race is about 35 miles long and took us about seven hours on average," said Doig. "This is pretty strenuous when you consider that we are paddling at 70 strokes per minute for the vast majority of the race. When we are not paddling at 70 BPM, we are running with boats over our heads. Day two is pretty similar, yet day three is a bit shorter (only four hours). There were certainly times when I was pushed to my limit, living in a world of absolute agony."

Saturday brought much milder temperatures and although the rain made for much better racing conditions. As for the petitors, every representative from Hamilton held their own on the course. Andrew praised the crew as he stated, "Much of the credit goes to the pit crew, nine students who volunteered to feed the racers at certain points during the race, but who also gave out back massages at the end of each day, and did all the work in camp each night."

PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDREW JILLINGS
Hamilton Students competed last weekend in the annual Adirondeck canoe classic

As for the results, Andrew Jillings won the C-1 Stock Masters heat posting an impressive 16:07:34 over the course of three days. With an incredible show of strength and stamina, Andrew posted a final time over an hour better than the second place competitor. In the C-4 Heat, the Hamilton boat which included Kevin Roback '17, Jacob Davidson '15, Eric Niemenen '16 and Sam Bernstein '17 came in 8th place, posting a score of 14:46:44. In the C-4 Stock Women's race, Anne Emanuels '16, Lindsay Pattison '16, Madison Atterbury '17 and Deanna Nappi '15, finished in second, posting a 16:42:46 across the three day race.

"I don't think I can compare the 90-miler to anything I've done in the past," said Doig. "Canoe racing is unique in that you cannot use your arms for anything but paddling while on the water. We will duct tape squeezy applesauce or GU packets to the insides of our boats so that we can rip them off and attempt to eat them as fast as possible, only missing a few strokes in the process."

Doig and the other Hamilton racers represented the school honorable throughout the whole weekend. Although the 90-miler is a rather unconventional competition, the athleticism shown throughout the whole weekend is always incredible. No matter how bad the weather was, the racers kept spirits high and performed at their highest level throughout the 90-miler.

Brown and Weston lead volleyball

by Daphne Assimakopoulos '17
Sports Writer

After a long summer of hard work, Hamilton volleyball entered its season ready to surpass all expectations.

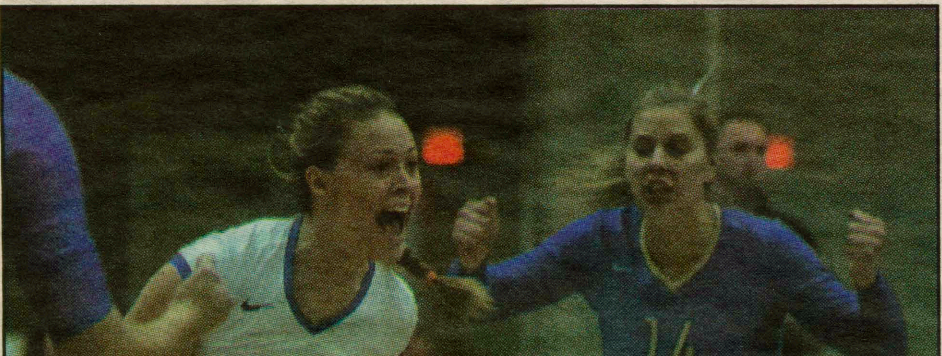
This year sees the return of two steadfast players in Anna Brown '15 and Jessica Weston '17.

In 2013, Weston led Hamilton in kills with 135, and blocks with 51. Moving into 2014, Weston expressed, "Personally I would like to improve my blocking and defense this year as well as work with the new setters so that our attacks are on point."

Brown has consistently performed for Hamilton in her career, ranking in the NESCAC top three in digs per set for the past two years. In 2013, Brown ranked second for total digs with 156 and 4.59 per set. Brown, Emily Rosen '15, Erin Casey '15 and Emma Lonadier '15 lead the Continentals as captains this season.

Weston commented, "Their leadership began over the summer when they

see *Volleyball, page 15*



Anna Brown '15 (No. 6) has helped the Conts to a 3-2 start.

Tennis building off spring success

by Sterling Xie '16
Sports Editor

As the novelty of being a NESCAC member wears off, Hamilton's sports teams have begun to experience more success in one of Division III's most difficult conferences. The men's and women's tennis teams certainly fit that distinction, as both squads enter the season with relatively experienced squads expected to make a dent in the conference standings.

The women are fresh off the most successful season in program history. The Continentals set records with 14 overall wins and earned their first two NESCAC wins since joining the conference, defeating Colby and Connecticut College. By season's end, Hamilton ranked 15th in the final Division III Northeast Regional Poll, as compiled by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA).

Mira Khanna '15, one of the team's top singles and doubles players, opines that the Continentals' greatest challenge entails compensating for a relatively

see *Tennis, page 15*

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MIKE DOHERTY
Hamilton's tennis teams will tune up for their spring NESCAC schedule.